

206 B1 12. (Amended) Apparatus for treating smokers' products of a type wherein a rod-shaped component is surrounded by a tubular wrapper carrying a deformable strip, comprising:

a rolling unit having surfaces defining a channel and including first and second surfaces at least one of which moves relative to the other thereof, said channel having an inlet and an outlet;

A³ means for feeding into said inlet successive products of a series of products having tubular wrappers each of which is contacted by the respective strip whereby the wrappers are caused to roll due to contact with said surfaces and to thus convolute the strips thereabout in a first portion of the channel at said inlet; and

means for changing the permeability of the wrappers during rolling at least in a second portion of the channel between said first portion and said outlet,

wherein a portion of one of the first and second surfaces is stationary.

18. (Amended) Apparatus for treating smokers' products of a type wherein a rod-shaped component is surrounded by a tubular wrapper carrying a deformable strip, comprising:

A⁴ a rolling unit having surfaces defining a channel and including first and second surfaces at least one of which moves relative to the other thereof, said channel having an inlet and an outlet;

means for feeding into said inlet successive products of a series of products having tubular wrappers each of which is contacted by the respective strip whereby the

wrappers are caused to roll due to contact with said surfaces and to thus convolute the strips thereabout in a first portion of the channel at said inlet; and

means for changing the permeability of the wrappers during rolling at least in a second portion of the channel between said first portion and said outlet,

A4
wherein said rolling unit includes a first endless band having an external surface constituting said at least one surface, a second endless band having an external surface constituting said other surface, and means for driving at least one of said endless bands.

A5
23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said endless band comprises three endless sections, one of said sections being flanked by the other two of said sections and said other sections cooperating with said stationary rolling member to define said second portion of said channel, said three sections cooperating with a further band to define said first portion of said channel and said rolling unit further comprising means for deflecting said one section from said channel between said first and second portions of said channel.

REMARKS

Claims 12-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 12, 18 and 23 are amended and claims 1-11 are cancelled.

A marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by this Amendment is attached hereto as Attachment A.